

**Claims**

1. A spacer-adjustment system for adjusting at least one spacer of a bearing assembly, said system comprising:
  - a force-transmitting member configured to operatively receive a force and to transmit the force to an adjustable spacer; and
  - a preload regulator comprising:
    - a first portion and a second portion movable relative to each other, said first portion being movable in response to the force and said second portion being received by and stationary relative to the bearing assembly; and
    - a controller coupled to said first portion and said second portion, said controller configured to detect an electrical contact between said first portion and said second portion.
2. The system of claim 1 further comprising a gap between said first portion and said second portion to inhibit electrical contact between said first portion and said second portion.
3. The system of claim 2 further comprising a spring for maintaining said gap, in response to an absence of the force.
4. The system of claim 3 further comprising a spring cavity between said first portion and said second portion and wherein said cavity is configured to receive said spring.
5. The system of claim 1 further comprising means for maintaining a gap between said first portion and said second portion, when the force is absent.
6. The system of claim 1 further comprising a force-application member for providing the force, said controller configured to control the force provided by the force-application member to adjust the at least one spacer

7. The system of claim 6 wherein controller is configured to receive a signal in response to said first portion contacting said second portion.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein said controller is configured to control the force-application member based on the signal.

9. The system of claim 7 wherein said controller is configured to control a speed of the force-application member in response to receiving the signal.

10. The system of claim 7 wherein said preload regulator further comprises a current detector and said current detector provides the signal to the controller in response to a contact between said first portion and said second portion.

11. The system of claim 10 further comprising a conducting jacket for conducting electricity between said second portion and said current detector.

12. The system of claim 11 further comprising at least one conducting brush for operatively conducting electricity between said current detector and at least one of said first portion and said second portion.

13. The system of claim 10 wherein said controller and said current detector are integral to each other.

14. The system of claim 1 wherein said force-transmitting member is located radially inside said preload regulator.

15. A method for adjusting at least one spacer of a bearing assembly, the method comprising:

applying a force to a force-transmitting member and a preload regulator to move the force-transmitting member to operatively transfer the force to the at least one spacer;

receiving the force at the preload regulator for regulating a desired adjustment to the at least one spacer, the regulator comprising:

a first portion and a second portion movable relative to each other, the first portion being operatively movable with the force-transmitting member and the second portion being received by, and stationary relative to, the bearing assembly; and

contacting the first portion and the second portion in response to the force to cause the preload regulator to control the force to control the movement of the force-transmitting member to regulate the desired adjustment of the at least one spacer.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising locating a spring between the first portion and the second portion to provide a gap between the first portion and the second portion.

17. The method of claim 15 further comprising applying the force by a force-application member to the force-transmitting member to move the force-transmitting member to apply the force to the at least one spacer.

18. The method of claim 15 further comprising detecting the contact of the first portion and the second portion.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the preload regulator comprises a controller and further comprising coupling the controller to the first portion and the second portion and further comprising providing a message to the controller in response to detecting the contact.

20. The method of claim 19 further comprising a current detector detecting the contact of the first portion and the second portion and providing the message to the controller.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the controller and the current detector are integral to each other.

22. The method of claim 19 further comprising controlling a force-application member to apply the force to the force-transmitting member in response to the message.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the controlling the force-application member comprises controlling movement of the force-application member by the controller.